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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

MEMORANDUM FOR:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Commissioner
Office of Internal Affairs

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

SUBJECT:

60-Day Status Report on GAO Final Report, *Arizona Border
Surveillance Technology Plan*, (GAO-14-368)

For your review and information, the following is the U.S. Border Patrol's 60-day status report on the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO's) final report, *Arizona Border Surveillance Technology Plan: Additional Actions Needed to Strengthen Management and Assess Effectiveness*, (GAO-14-368), dated March 2014. This memorandum serves as the Border Patrol's written status report and includes the Border Patrol's level of concurrence for each GAO recommendation and the corrective actions to date.

The report contains six recommendations, the last two of which are addressed to the Border Patrol and with which DHS concurs. Specifically, the GAO recommends that Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske take the following actions:

Recommendation 5: Require data on asset assists to be recorded and tracked within the Enforcement Integrated Database, which contains data on apprehensions and seizures.

Recommendation 6: Once data on assets are required to be recorded and tracked, analyze available data on apprehensions and seizures and technological assists, in combination with other relevant performance metrics or indicators, as appropriate, to determine the contribution of surveillance technologies to CBP's border-security efforts.

U.S. Border Patrol comments on Recommendation 5

The Border Patrol is working toward (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

In its report, GAO found that data was not being consistently recorded, "...limiting the Border Patrol's ability to collect, track, and analyze available data on asset assists to help monitor the contribution of surveillance technology." The Border Patrol has taken the first step to making this data field a valuable metric (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) The Border Patrol is on track to complete these endeavors by December 31, 2014.

USBP comments on Recommendation 6

As a start toward addressing the question: “How do different classes of technology, within a certain environment, contribute to the U.S. Border Patrol mission?”, the Border Patrol has developed a time line to measure technology’s contributions to border security, as outlined below in Table 1. The plan includes the development of an initial set of quantitative and qualitative technology-related measures by September 30, 2014. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the Border Patrol will gather baseline data for the developed measures. By the end of FY 2015, our agency will use this data to begin evaluating the individual and collective contributions of specific technology assets as they relate to key strategic outcomes outlined in our response to GAO 13-25, *Border Patrol: Key Elements of New Strategic Plan Not Yet in Place to Inform Border Security Status and Resource Needs*. By the end of FY 2016, the Border Patrol will have various qualitative and quantitative performance measures of technology to help profile different levels of situational awareness in different areas of the border.

TABLE 1: Time Line to Develop Technology Performance Measures

	Milestone: End of FY 2014 Current Activities	Milestone: End of FY 2015	Milestone: End of FY 2016
Technology Asset Performance Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support Situational Awareness (SA) Score development. (Ref: OBP Response for GAO 13-25)2. Request and collect metrics within USBP and CBP. Review current and proposed measures and update.3. Create technology roster, with qualitative and proposed quantitative impacts. Submit for vetting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create Operational Baseline using Integrated Database statistics (Operational Effectiveness) with S/A measures for high priority areas.2. Update technology roster and evaluate, potential impacts both qualitatively and quantitatively for specific technology assets.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create “Tool Box” document explaining qualitative and quantitative impacts of technology and tactical infrastructure in specific areas of the border environment.

We are committed to our ongoing efforts to be able to articulate the effect of technology on our Nation’s borders. I appreciate the opportunity to highlight our continuing efforts to capture critical information that will enable us to measure and improve performance.

I am available to discuss this matter with you at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Your staff may direct technical questions regarding recommendations 5 and 6 to the Strategic Planning, Policy and Analysis Division’s Enforcement Systems Branch Associate Chief, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), as well as Operational Requirements Management Branch Associate Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Questions related to this GAO audit may be directed to Program Analyst (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).